

# Doctoral Internship in Health Service Psychology

## Cincinnati VA Medical Center



## Psychology Training Program

## 2024-2025 Training Year



**VA** | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
Cincinnati VA Medical Center

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## **MISSION STATEMENT, COVID 19, and Beyond**

On April 30, 2020, the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs released the following report:

### **Veteran trust in VA health care rises above 90 percent for the first time**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released survey results showing Veteran trust in VA health care outpatient services has increased more than 5% since 2017, reaching 90.1% as of April 12. VA received surveys from 4,030,438 Veterans since June 2017 to the present via the Veterans Signals customer feedback program which asks Veterans about their care experience and to rate their trust in VA.

“These improvements are a testament to not only VA’s investment in patient experience programs but also the dedication of our employees.” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Even during a pandemic, our VA team has continued its steadfast commitment to delivering the highest quality care for our nation’s Veterans.”

The world changed dramatically in 2020 and the VA health care system has been continually adapting to the changing circumstances and needs of our Veteran population. Likewise in our own facility here in Cincinnati we have modified our activities, routines, and healthcare delivery on behalf of our local Veterans, Staff, and Trainees.

The mission of our Internship training program is the development of psychologists who have the knowledge, skills, and self-awareness necessary to deliver psychological services to diverse populations in a variety of settings, and who practice competently and independently in a professional, empathic, and responsible manner. During the 2020-2021 training year we maintained our pursuit of this mission by flexibly adapting our training activities, training all of our interns in the use of Video-based telehealth, and rapidly expanding the use of telehealth in our outpatient programs. We also adapted our delivery of clinical supervision and didactic training to a video conferencing format without a loss of frequency or quality.

During the challenge of Covid 19 and its aftermath we remain committed to both the health and training of our Interns with the awareness that training in a hospital setting comes with its own unique opportunities and risks. We value both our ability to tailor the training experience to the needs of the Intern class, and the ability of our program to adapt to the changing needs and preferences of the Veterans we serve.

It is impossible to predict what challenges the future holds, but we invite you to apply to our training program and join us in our ongoing efforts to meet the 21st century needs of our Veteran population.

**Please note:** as a Federal training site our program staff and trainees follow the federal guidelines and requirements for the VHA with regard to COVID-based safety measures and vaccinations.

## Living in Cincinnati

Cincinnati is a scenic city built on seven hills along the banks of the Ohio River. The population of the city and surrounding metropolitan area is approximately 2.1 million people. It has the distinct advantage of being a large enough city to offer a great variety of experiences, while not being so large that one gets overwhelmed or that traffic paralyzes the roadways at rush hour. Its moderate size allows for excellent government services while offering a wide variety of interesting social, cultural and athletic activities (<http://cincinnatiusa.com/things-to-do/Downtown>).

The Census Bureau estimates Cincinnati's multicultural population at nearly 50% of the city's total. Cincinnati is the home of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (<http://freedomcenter.org/>), and private groups like the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber are nationally known for leadership in diversity and inclusion business practices (<http://www.cincinnati-chamber.com/the-inclusive-chamber>).

Cincinnati is the home of the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati Art Academy, College Conservatory of Music and the College of Mount St. Joseph. In addition to the cultural events offered at these institutions, Cincinnati has a nationally known symphony orchestra (<http://cincinnati-symphony.org/>), the second oldest opera company in the United States (Cincinnati Opera), a May Festival devoted to classical oratorios with nationally known performers, and the Cincinnati Ballet Company. The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park offers professional productions of contemporary and classical theater on its two stages throughout the year. The Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Cincinnati hosts professional theatre and dance year-round (<http://cincinnatiarts.org/aronoff>).



Figure 1: Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts

The greater Cincinnati area also has more than 100 museums and galleries which enhance its reputation as a cultural center. These include the Cincinnati Art Museum in Eden Park, The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Contemporary Art Center, Taft Museum, Krohn Conservatory as well as the Museum Center which houses the Natural History Museum, the Cincinnati Historical Society, and the Children's Museum. Cincinnati also has a wonderful Planetarium and Observatory that are open to the public.

Cincinnati is the birthplace of major league baseball and our Cincinnati Reds currently play in the Great American Ball Park. Football fans can enjoy watching the Cincinnati Bengals play at Paul Brown Stadium. Boating, golfing, tennis, ice skating, hiking and camping are among the other activities enjoyed by Cincinnatians who utilize the Ohio River, local lakes and the outstanding state and county park systems.



Figure 2: Cincinnati Reds baseball stadium in downtown Cincinnati



Figure 3: Findlay Market

Findlay Market, Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market, is a gathering place for the most socially, economically, racially, and ethnically diverse crowds found anywhere in Cincinnati. The Market is located just blocks from downtown in Over-the-Rhine, a dense historic neighborhood rich in 19th century architecture. Findlay Market is home year-around to about two dozen indoor merchants selling meat, fish, poultry, produce, flowers, cheese, deli, and ethnic foods, and hosts numerous street performers and special events. (<http://www.findlaymarket.org/>)

Cincinnati also has a wonderful public parks system. In 2018 the Trust for Public Land's *ParkScore* index rated Cincinnati as 7th in the nation right behind San Francisco and Portland.

# Cincinnati VA Medical Center

The Cincinnati VA Medical Center is a general medical and surgical hospital with all the services found in a large urban hospital. The Mental Health Care Line within the Medical Center is composed of seven divisions including: Outpatient Mental Health; Trauma Recovery Center; Assessment and Intensive Treatment; Substance Use Disorders; Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans; Special Mental Health Services; and Community Outreach. The various mental health



Figure 4: Cincinnati VA Medical Center

services available to Veterans are distributed between the main campus located two miles north of downtown Cincinnati, the Ft. Thomas Division located five miles southeast of downtown in Ft. Thomas, KY, the VA Behavioral Health and Wellness center in Norwood, OH, and a system of six community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) located in Clermont County, OH, Georgetown, OH, Butler County, OH, Bellevue, KY, Florence, KY, and Dearborn County, IN.

As a VA hospital, the Cincinnati VAMC is dedicated to the care of Veterans whose injuries or medical conditions were obtained while in the United States military service. Whereas we serve a predominantly Caucasian and African-American male population, a growing percentage of Veterans served at the Cincinnati VAMC are women.

In addition to emphasizing high quality clinical treatment, the VA Medical Center has a strong commitment to training. As a Dean's Committee Hospital, we maintain close teaching ties with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Staff members of most of the clinical services at the VA Medical Center, including many psychologists, have teaching appointments in the College of Medicine. In reciprocal fashion, many of the Medical College faculty serve as consultants to the VA Medical Center. Some of the VA psychology staff also have adjunct appointments to the University of Cincinnati Department of Psychology as well as to the Xavier University Department of Psychology.



Figure 5: University of Cincinnati Crawley building Atrium

Our Medical Center has fully accredited training programs in most of the major health specialties, including psychiatry, nursing, pharmacy, social work, rehabilitation therapy and medical technology.

The VA Medical Center is located within a large complex of facilities which includes the University of Cincinnati, the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, the University Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Shriners Hospitals for Children, and several other psychiatric and medical facilities. Regularly scheduled programs such as grand rounds, seminars, case conferences and presentations by invited distinguished lecturers are open to interns. Library facilities are available at the VA Medical Center, the Medical School, and the nearby University of Cincinnati.

Video and audio recording of training activities are widely available to Interns in the Psychology Training Program, and review of these recordings with supervisors is part of all clinical rotations.



Figure 6: Fort Thomas Division of the Cincinnati VA

# Internship in Health Service Psychology

The Psychology Training Program at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center offers a doctoral internship training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association as a doctoral internship in Health Service psychology.

## Mission

The mission of the internship training program is the development of psychologists who have the knowledge, skills, and self-awareness necessary to deliver psychological services to diverse populations in a variety of settings, and who practice competently and independently in a professional, empathic, and responsible manner. We provide opportunities for interns to examine a broad range of psychological problems, to develop depth of skill in particular areas of specialization, and to gain practical experiences as preparation for successful entry into postdoctoral or entry-level professional positions including careers within the Veterans Health Administration.

All activities during the training year are coordinated and supervised by the doctoral staff of the Cincinnati VA Psychology Program. Our staff views internship as a year of intensive supervised clinical experience that bridges graduate school with the professional practice of health service psychology. Each intern's training experience is specifically designed to meet a given student's needs, goals, and skill levels.

## Training Aim and Core Competencies

To fulfill our training mission, the primary aim of the training program is the development of intermediate to advanced skills in the core competencies of health service psychology. Broadly, these core competencies follow the core competencies provided by the American Psychological Association (revised 2011) including: Research; Ethical and legal standards; Individual and cultural diversity; Professional values and attitudes; Communication and interpersonal skills; Assessment; Intervention; Supervision; Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills.

These core competencies are presented and discussed with the interns during orientation week, and the performance objectives are formally captured in the internship evaluation form. This form provides behaviorally-anchored descriptions adopted from the APA standards to illustrate the expected developmental progression of skill and conduct for interns from the start to the completion of internship.

## **Training Model**

Our training program subscribes to a scientist-practitioner model of education and training for the practice of health service psychology. More than rote memorization of specific research findings, we actively encourage interns to adopt a rational empirical process to understand and evaluate their clinical activities, to critically evaluate, integrate, and apply the current scientific literature to their various professional activities in accurate and culturally sensitive ways, and to actively provide, seek, and use feedback to assist with their mastery of the program's core training competencies. In sum, our program upholds the view that good clinical practice is based on critical thinking and the applied science of psychology delivered within an interpersonal context of care and compassion. Further, we also recognize and value the need to skillfully adapt broad empirical data to individual, group, and cultural differences.

## **Philosophy of Supervision**

Our philosophy of supervision at the Cincinnati VA adheres to a competency-based approach, which identifies explicit and measurable standards of performance and tailors training to the developmental needs and skills of our interns. Over the course of the internship year, interns are expected to function increasingly independently as they mature in clinical and professional development. Accordingly, while interns always function under direct supervision, their clinical experiences increase in complexity and independence over the course of the training year. This developmental progression is also facilitated by professional development didactics offered throughout the year to the interns. And whereas some interns pursue very specific training goals during this year, our internship also provides a time for each Intern to develop his or her individual strengths and to experiment with the variety of roles and activities available within health service psychology.

## **Breadth of Training**

The internship year is structured to maximize exposure to a wide range of experiences, while offering sufficient concentration to provide depth of learning and to build expertise in particular areas. As such, we strive to balance the needs for broad-based training with opportunities to focus on areas of specialization. Our goal is twofold: to support our interns' particular career interests while providing a well-rounded clinical training experience. Consistent with the APA Guidelines on Accreditation, we strive to provide internship education and training in preparation for entry-level practice in health service psychology that is broad and professional in its orientation rather than narrow and technical.

Broad-based training grounded in our core competencies thus provides a comprehensive view of psychological practice intended to encourage creative problem solving through the use of empirically supported psychological principles and sound judgment across clinical, ethical, and professional domains. Interns get experience thinking and practicing as psychologists to prepare them for careers in a variety of settings. The acquisition of specific skills, techniques, and conceptual models are considered as means to this goal, rather than as ends in themselves.

We recognize that a health service psychologist must be capable of thoughtfully applying psychological principles to the solution of complex individual and social problems rather than habitually applying prescribed solutions to narrowly defined complaints. In this regard, our aim is to provide training that not only prepares interns for the problems of today, but also assists them to develop the personal and professional skills needed to successfully manage the challenges that will arise over the duration of a long professional career.

## Diversity

As a Training program within the Veterans Health Administration, we support the Department of Veterans Affairs Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan .

Link: <https://www.va.gov/ormdi/docs/StrategicPlan.pdf> From that document:

Over two decades ago, VA initiated a new conversation about diversity and inclusion in the public sector. Informed by a growing body of research, VA proffered a transformative paradigm that linked diversity and inclusion to organizational performance. This new paradigm was based on the proposition that equal employment opportunity (EEO) was more than a legal mandate; it was a business imperative. It emphasized two cardinal precepts: 1) EEO is foundational to achieving workforce diversity; and 2) inclusion is the key to achieving high organizational performance. While we remained unequivocally committed to equal opportunity in the workplace, we also understood that EEO was necessary, but it is just one step towards creating a high performing organization in the 21st century. (p.2)

The millennium ushered in yet a new focus to the emerging concept of organizational inclusion. The Center for Creative Leadership found that diverse teams are more creative, perform better in problem-solving, and result in better decision-making than homogeneous teams. Similarly, the Diversity Research Network found that gender diversity results in more effective group processes in people-oriented performance environments (2002). The caveat to this research was that diversity alone was not sufficient to achieve the performance advantages. Absent the facilitating conditions that integrate diverse perspectives and empower the corresponding diversity of thought into the organization, the aforementioned outcomes were reversed. This is the inclusion imperative. Simply put, diversity without inclusion will not work. (p.3)

Within the Department of Psychology, our goal is to extend this commitment to include the creation of a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe that diversity among departmental members strengthens our staff, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and allows us to provide more sensitive and effective patient care. We welcome diversity in our Internship class, and we warmly encourage minorities and persons of diverse backgrounds of all types to apply to the Cincinnati VAMC Internship. Interns are exposed to aspects of diversity unique to the Veterans' population during the internship year through assessment, treatment, consultation, and Internship-specific seminars. Our aim is to optimize the training experience through individual appreciation and clinical understanding of human diversity in all aspects of psychological practice.

Our program views central aspects of training, from assessment to intervention to issues of diversity, to be best addressed "in action" or "in context." Thus, our diversity training focuses on aspects of diversity salient and present in our local military Veteran cultures and region. Interns are asked to apply their knowledge of psychological science, individual differences, and group/cultural diversity directly within their patient care settings.

Of note, the local LGBT Health Care Coordinators for our Mental Health Care line serve on both the Psychology Training Committee as well as the Psychology Diversity Committee. Interns are welcomed and encouraged to participate in our Psychology Diversity Committee and diversity training activities.

## **Active Learning**

A final value of the training staff is the active involvement of interns with the content and structure of the internship. Interns are invited to participate in the Psychology Training Committee, and Intern feedback directs the content and timing of the Intern seminars. Interns are expected to provide ongoing feedback to supervisors and to propose improvements in the structure and/or content of their training rotations. In recent years our interns have rewritten our professional conference feedback forms and have designed feedback forms for the Intern seminars. Intern feedback has also helped us to reshape our public materials, including this brochure to more accurately reflect our focus on diversity and science in training.

# Program Structure

For every Intern, the four fundamental experiences built into the internship program are the **two Major Rotations, the Minor Rotation, the Outpatient Therapy Rotation, and the Training Conferences.**

**2 Major Rotations** - 6 months each, 24 hours per week, 2 hours of supervision each week.

**1 Minor Rotation** - 12 months long, 8 hours per week, 1 hour of supervision each week.

**Outpatient Therapy** - 12 months long, 5 hours per week, 1 hour of supervision each week.

**Training Conferences** - 12 months long, 2-3 hours per week.

Each Intern will work with at least four doctoral staff psychologists as primary supervisors during the year in their two major rotations, the minor rotation, and the long-term outpatient experience. A minimum of four hours of supervision is expected per week, of which three hours are individual meetings with primary supervisors. All members of the psychology staff are also available for consultation. Information about the psychology staff can be found in Appendix A.

## Sample Intern Weekly Schedule

Day and Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am – Noon	Major Rotation (all day)	Outpatient Therapy Cases	Major Rotation (half day)	Major Rotation (all day)	Major Rotation (half day)
1 - 2pm	Major Rotation (all day)	Intern Hour	Major Rotation (half day)	Major Rotation (all day)	Major Rotation (half day)
2 - 3pm	Major Rotation (all day)	Professional Conference	Minor Rotation (half day)	Major Rotation (all day)	Minor Rotation (half day)
3 - 4pm	Major Rotation (all day)	Intern Seminar	Minor Rotation (half day)	Outpatient Therapy Supervision	Minor Rotation (half day)

# Internship Tracks and Rotation Assignments

Each Intern applicant will match to the internship on one of four tracks. Our Track admission process is designed to guarantee that at least one of an intern's Major Rotation training experiences is in an area of their choice:

## **General Clinical Track Number 150411**

Community Based OP Clinic (CBOC)  
Domiciliary  
Mental Health Clinic  
National Center for Organizational  
Development Substance-Use Disorders (SUD)  
SUD/PTSD Treatment Program  
SUD Outpatient Treatment Program  
SUD Residential Treatment

## **Neuropsychology Track Number 150412**

Neuropsychology

## **Trauma Recovery Center Track Number 150413**

Trauma Recovery Center

## **Health Track Number 150414**

Health Psychology Assessment and Medical-Surgical  
Consultation  
Pain Management  
Primary Care/Mental Health Integration

This means that if you match with us on the Neuropsychology or Trauma Recovery Center Tracks, you are guaranteed one major rotation in those specific areas. If you match on the Health Track you may choose either the Health Psychology or the Pain Management rotations, and if you match on the General Clinical Track, you may choose one rotation from the rotations listed above. During orientation week, the second Major Rotation for each Intern will be determined in consultation with the training staff, and this rotation will be drawn from the remaining pool of available Major Rotations. The Minor Rotation and Long Term Outpatient Therapy supervisor will also be determined during orientation week.

There are a couple of things to keep in mind about the tracks. First, if you do not match on the Neuropsychology or Trauma Recovery Tracks, you will not have access to those rotations. If you do not match on the Health Track, you may have access to a Health or Pain Management rotation but this is not guaranteed. Also, applicants may apply to more than one track, but a single applicant cannot match with our internship on two separate tracks; so major rotation combinations such as the Trauma Recovery Center and Neuropsychology, or Health and Neuropsychology are not typically available.

Interns seeking a VA internship are often interested in receiving training in trauma treatment during their internship year. We can accommodate this through a number of major and minor rotations including the Cognitive Processing Therapy minor rotation which is open to multiple interns, and training in couples-based PTSD treatment.

## **Rotation Assignment**

Our internship begins with a full week of orientation conducted by the Director of Training (DOT), the Associate Director of Training (ADOT), and the training staff. The internship is introduced to the interns through a series of meetings with our psychology supervisors who describe the training rotations that are available within each of their programs, as well as their own supervision styles and clinical practice backgrounds.

By matching the training opportunities of the internship with interns' training goals, rotation preferences, and needs, the training staff develops each intern's individualized rotation placements. Since this process is collaborative, we do not establish pre-selected sets of rotations prior to orientation week.

Intern requests for combinations of rotations that are narrowly focused (e.g. two major rotations in assessment, or two major rotations in Substance Use Disorder treatment) are typically discouraged. However, all rotation requests are considered and evaluated by the training committee in light of the internship's training model and values.

# Training Experiences

The following rotations and long term supervisors are available to interns, though not typically in all possible combinations:

## **Major Rotations**

Community Mental Health  
(Clermont CBOC)  
Domiciliary  
Health Psychology Evaluations  
Mental Health Clinic  
National Center for Org Development  
Neuropsychology  
Pain Management  
Primary Care/Mental Health Integration  
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)  
    SUD/PTSD Treatment  
    SUD Residential Rehabilitation Treatment  
    Program  
    SUD Outpatient Treatment Program  
Trauma Recovery Center  
Treatment Recovery and Activity Center

## **Minor Rotations**

Cognitive Processing Therapy  
Community Mental Health  
(Clermont CBOC)  
Motivational Interviewing  
Neuropsychology  
PTSD research  
SUD/Chronic Disease research  
Treatment Recovery and Activity Center  
  
Novel Minor Rotation Experiences (see  
description below)

## **Long Term Therapy Supervisors**

Dr. Zane Faulkner  
Dr. Giannitelli  
Dr. Gore  
Dr. Griffin Colvin  
Dr. Peterson  
Dr. Steinberg  
Dr. Sudbrack  
Dr. Zinnbauer

Of note, self-disclosure may be required as part of some of these supervised experiences and Intern candidates are encouraged to ask for more specific guidelines regarding particular rotations.

## General Clinical Track

This track is designed for interns who wish to develop broad expertise in the treatment of psychopathology, specific experience in one of the general track rotations, or for those who are unsure of whether they wish to pursue further specialization. The General Mental Health Track balances outpatient and inpatient/residential settings with emphasis placed on managing complex patients who frequently present with dual diagnoses and difficult psychosocial circumstances. This track offers experiences assessing and treating the full range of mental health problems encountered at the VA including depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders, psychosis and personality disorders. Training provides interns the opportunity to incorporate the use of evidence-based practices in daily work. Thus, interns may expect to have some cases for which they use manualized treatments as well as others for which their patients' issues require additional flexibility and creativity. Use of evidence-based practice in the face of non-compliance, chronicity, and previous treatment failure is explored. Many of the General Track rotations offer training in therapeutic process including interpersonal process in individual therapy, group process and milieu based interventions. A wide range of therapies is utilized on these rotations including interpersonal psychotherapy, PE, CPT, MI/MET, ACT, DBT, Seeking Safety, cognitive-behavioral and group therapy.

The General Mental Health Track encompasses a wide array of major rotations which are described in the Major Rotations section. Interns in this track will complete two of these major rotations. They will be guaranteed their first choice from among these options.

**Supervisors:** *listed by rotation in the next brochure section*

## Neuropsychology Track

The Neuropsychology track, which consists of both major and minor rotations, is designed for applicants who are planning on careers in the field of clinical neuropsychology and who have prior training and practical experience in this field. As such, applicants who intend to pursue postdoctoral training in neuropsychology are most desirable. Interns will gain experience completing outpatient neuropsychological evaluations with Veterans referred from Primary Care, Neurology, Geriatric Psychiatry, Psychiatry/Mental Health and numerous specialty clinics throughout the facility. Although the majority of evaluations are completed on an outpatient basis, limited opportunities to evaluate inpatients are usually available. Interns will complete assessments at the VA Behavioral Health and Wellness center in Norwood and at our Fort Thomas, Kentucky facility.

Our intensive training experience is designed to conform to the guidelines recommended by the Houston Conference and the Neuropsychology Division 40 Task Force. Please refer to the Major Rotation section for additional information about the Neuropsychology rotation.

**Supervisors:** *Drs. Carr, Harper, Houston, Kelkar, and Rigrish*

## Trauma Recovery Center Track

The Trauma Recovery Center track is designed for applicants seeking a career in trauma psychology. Thus, this track is best suited for applicants who intend to pursue postdoctoral training or employment in the field of trauma psychology. The Trauma Recovery Center places heavy emphasis on empirically-supported assessment and treatment of PTSD. Empirically-supported psychotherapies for PTSD follow a cognitive-behavioral orientation. Therefore, this track is best tailored for applicants with a cognitive-behavioral theoretical orientation and who are interested in advancing their experiences with empirically-supported assessment and treatment of Veterans with PTSD. As is described in detail under the Major Rotations section, interns on this track have the opportunity to simultaneously obtain experiences in both outpatient and residential PTSD treatment programs.

**Supervisors:** *Drs. Chard, Caldwell, Bailey, Fahey, Klump, Lewis, Martin, Stayton-Coe, and Weiss.*

## Health Track

The Health track is designed for applicants seeking a career in health psychology. Thus, this track is best suited for applicants who intend to pursue postdoctoral training or employment in the field of health psychology. The three major rotations in the Health track are Pain Management, Health Psychology Assessment and Medical-Surgical Consultation, and Primary Care/Mental Health Integration. Each of these rotations is described in detail under the Major Rotations section.

The Health track offers experience providing outpatient behavioral health services to Veterans of all ages who suffer from a wide range of medical conditions. This includes assessment, consultation, and intervention with a diverse patient population whose psychological issues are associated with adjustment to various pain conditions and medical problems.

A central emphasis of this track is integrated care and collaboration with medical staff. The national VA Health Care system is increasingly focused on multidisciplinary and interprofessional team-based care. Therefore, working with health care providers from a

variety of disciplines and learning to seamlessly coordinate care is a key professional development skill for our interns.

A second emphasis of this track is the prevention and management of chronic diseases. Through an integrative approach to care, interns work with Veterans to manage chronic pain and medical conditions in order to maintain active and fulfilling lives. Understanding the relationship among psychological factors, behavioral patterns, and physical health and illness is stressed.

Interns matched to the Health track are guaranteed at least one of its three major rotations.

**Health Psychology Assessment and Medical-Surgical Consultation Supervisor:** *Dr. Nagel*

**Pain Management Supervisors:** *Drs. Keane-Timberlake and Griffin Colvin*

**Primary Care/Mental Health Integration Supervisors:** *Drs. Sefferino and Jones*

# Major Rotation Opportunities

Interns are assigned two 6-month rotations in clinical settings during the internship year. Interns spend 24 hours per week on their major rotation assignments, and this is typically organized as three full days or two full days plus two half days. Assessment experiences are often available within major rotations. Please note that the only guaranteed access to major rotations in Neuropsychology, the Trauma Recovery Center, and the Health Track is by matching on those respective tracks.

## **Clermont County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)**

Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) are clinics that offer primary care, mental health, and some specialty services to the Veterans in their own community. For many Veterans it is difficult to travel to the main hospital due to health issues, transportation problems, or job and family responsibilities. The CBOCs provide these Veterans with a more convenient location to receive the services. The Clermont County CBOC is located in the Eastgate area, a quickly growing region of Cincinnati with both rural and more urban districts. This CBOC is also the closest location for many Veterans from more remote locations. Currently the Clermont County CBOC is the largest CBOC under the Cincinnati VAMC system, serving more than 5,000 Veterans.

The training rotation at the Clermont CBOC provides a unique opportunity to work in an outpatient setting with clients with a wide range of issues and diagnoses. While the main hospital generally has specialty clinics for specific disorders, underlying issues, or war eras, the mental health providers at the CBOCs serve all the Veterans from the area needing treatment for mental health issues. This offers the Intern the possibility to get experience with many different disorders, several different modes of assessment and evidence based treatment including individual, group, and couples psychotherapy. The Intern will also be able to collaborate and consult with primary care and the other specialty services on a more immediate and personal level than what might be the case in a larger hospital. This rotation is also amenable to work with specific interests the Intern might have if, for example, an Intern would like more experience with a specific disorder. There is also the opportunity to take part in the smoking cessation program and to help with group and individual treatment of nicotine addiction. The major or minor rotation at the Clermont CBOC is perfect for interns seeking a varied and flexible training experience.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Monsson

## **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program**

Located in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program is a 58-bed biopsychosocial rehabilitation setting designed to assist homeless Veterans in reintegrating into the community. Veterans typically stay in the Domiciliary for three to seven months and have access to mental health, medical, and vocational assistance. Target goals for most of our residents involve independent living, gainful employment, and the development of a long-term mental health and substance use recovery program.

Many of the Veterans in the Domiciliary community suffer from chronic substance use disorders and/or mental health issues. Accordingly, Intern training opportunities include providing individual and group therapy, addictions treatment, relapse prevention training, psycho-educational classes, program development, personality assessment, and participation in an interdisciplinary treatment team. Interns have the opportunity to receive training in several evidence-based approaches, including Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT skills), Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention (MBRP), and Motivational Interviewing/Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MI/MET). An emphasis on this rotation is for interns to adapt the clinical skills that they already possess to create effective interventions with this population.

If you are looking for a clinical challenge that draws upon creative problem solving, increases multicultural awareness, sharpens your clinical judgment, and emphasizes personal and professional authenticity, the Domiciliary is for you!!

**Supervisors:** Dr. Ryan Faulkner

# Health Psychology Assessment and Medical-Surgical Consultation

Interns on this rotation will complete psychosocial evaluations for complex medical procedures such as solid organ and bone marrow transplants, advanced cardiac procedures, and bariatric surgeries. These assessments are based on the biopsychosocial model with a focus on the interactions among the person, their disease and the environment. The intern will integrate information obtained from structured and semi-structured interviews, self-report questionnaires and broad-band instruments to formulate recommendations regarding treatment strategies and disease management decisions. The health psychology intern will be provided the opportunity to work in integrated settings such as cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation, hematology-oncology, and bariatric services depending upon clinic and training needs. This rotation is designed to provide broad exposure to a variety of medical-surgical settings in order to prepare the pre-doctoral trainee for post-doctoral specialization in the field of clinical health psychology.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Nagel

## Mental Health Clinic

The Mental Health Clinic offers interdisciplinary team-based care to Veterans of all eras with a wide range of psychiatric disorders (e.g., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, PTSD, personality disorders, psychotic disorders, substance use disorders), and has providers at the main hospital and at Norwood Behavioral Health and Wellness outpatient clinic. In-person activities on the Mental health Clinic rotation will take place at Norwood Behavioral Health and Wellness outpatient clinic. The Mental Health Clinic in Norwood has a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) team comprised of psychologists, a psychiatrist, a social worker, a nurse practitioner, and support staff. Together, this team collaborates to provide care to Veterans on an outpatient basis. Psychology interns are invited to participate in many aspects of clinical care provision in the Mental Health Clinic, and opportunities can be tailored to individual interns' interests and training needs. Possible training opportunities for psychology interns in the Mental Health Clinic include: sharpening differential diagnostic skills, refining formal assessment skills, providing umbrella/peer supervision to practicum students, learning and delivering evidence-based psychotherapies (e.g., Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy, Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation), and participating in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings. A training rotation in the Mental Health Clinic is optimal for interns wishing to learn and use evidence-based psychotherapies for a wide variety of mental health concerns in a diverse Veteran population.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Volz

# National Center for Organizational Development

The National Center for Organization Development (NCOD) is focused on building Effective Cultures, Effective Leaders, and Effective Teams across the Veterans Administration (VA). To achieve this, NCOD offers targeted products and services to meet the needs of VA across the country. This unique rotation offers learning and hands-on experience in organizational development (OD) theory, practice, and application. The internship core competencies are reflected in the NCOD rotation, but the focus moves away from delivery of individual mental health services and toward interventions designed to improve larger systems. At NCOD, predoctoral interns will have the opportunity to learn the foundations of: Organizational Assessment, Organizational Development, Organizational Culture Change, Team Building, Change Management, Leadership Assessment, Leadership Development, and Organizational Consulting.

The predoctoral intern will work closely with team members on NCOD's Organizational Health Team, an interdisciplinary team comprised of psychologists, program analysts, and quality management support staff. Various consultation experiences are offered including the provision of leadership coaching, presentation delivery to leadership teams on topics such as employee burnout, servant leadership, and managing virtual employees, and facilitation of sessions and community of practice calls to leaders and front-line employees. The predoctoral intern will have the opportunity to deliver All Employee Survey (AES) data reviews to mid-level managers and executive leadership teams across VA as part of AES data debriefs. They will also be able to offer interventions to effectively increase teams' engagement including organizational data utilization. The intern will work closely with NCOD National Managers and Project Leads across various projects focused on promoting employee engagement and organizational health, such as the National VA Voices Program, Organizational Health Campaign, and Voice of the Customer.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Smidt

# Neuropsychology

The Neuropsychology rotation provides Interns with the opportunity to conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations on a wide range of patient populations, including those with neurological, geriatric, psychiatric and general medical conditions. The rotation is devoted to training in neuropsychological assessment including administration and scoring of a wide variety of tests, interpreting test performance, honing case conceptualization skills, providing patient/family feedback and report writing. Approximately 15-20 patients are evaluated each week in the Neuropsychology clinics and Interns typically evaluate 2-3 patients per week during their Major rotation and one patient per week during the Minor rotation. Neuropsychological assessment training will occur in several clinical contexts, including:

<b>Neuropsychology Consultation Clinic</b>	Addressing consults to the Neuropsychology Clinic from throughout the medical center including outpatient Neurology, Psychiatry, Geriatrics and Primary Care, and the Inpatient Medicine and Psychiatry units.
<b>Residential PTSD/TBI Program</b>	Neuropsychological assessment of Veterans from across the country who are participating in the residential treatment program for PTSD/TBI.
<b>TBI/Polytrauma Clinic</b>	Neuropsychological evaluation of primarily Post 9/11 Veterans with a history of TBI and other trauma exposure. Opportunity to participate in weekly interdisciplinary treatment team meetings.

Instructive training is also a major component of this rotation as Interns participate in a weekly Neuropsychology didactic that spans the entire Internship year. Interns work closely with each of our neuropsychology supervisors to learn varied methods for evaluating and assessing patients, and in the process, develop and master their own evaluation and consultative skills. Typically, the supervisors employ a flexible approach to better understand cognition/behavior. Individual supervision is provided on every case seen by our interns.

The Neuropsychology Rotations and the Neuropsychology Staff are based out of our VA Behavioral Health and Wellness center in Norwood, OH, which is approximately 5 miles from the Main VA Campus.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Carr, Harper, Houston, Kelkar, and Rigrish

## Pain Management Services

Interns participating in the Pain Management rotation will provide clinical services to Veterans with complex chronic pain and comorbid mental health conditions. Interns will become familiar with a Whole Health approach chronic pain rehabilitation and will provide clinical services across the continuum of care. Interns will learn to conceptualize and treat chronic pain from both an ACT and a CBT perspective. Incorporated into the rotation will be education about common pain-related diagnoses and medications, as well as complementary and alternative medicine offerings—traditional and Battlefield acupuncture, chiropractic care, biofeedback, yoga, and hypnosis. A day in the life of a Pain Management Intern will involve conducting solo and interdisciplinary team-based evaluations (with physical therapists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, chiropractors and psychiatrists), teaching Veterans about the principles of pain self-management in individual and group settings, and consulting with clinic staff to manage a caseload of patients.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Keane-Timberlake and Griffin Colvin

# Primary Care Mental Health Integration

PC-MHI staff are part of the Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) in the Primary Care Clinics and, through collaboration with other PACT team members, provide integrated care to patients. Other PACT team members include physicians, physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), registered nurses (RNs), licensed practice nurses (LPNs), pharmacists, nutritionists, social workers, and program support assistants.

With the consent of the patient, members of the patient's PACT team can make a referral to the PC-MHI program. Referrals via a "warm handoff" are encouraged, which involves a PACT member introducing a patient to a PC-MHI provider on the same day as their primary care visit. Appropriate referrals include presenting problems such as stress or adjustment difficulties, depressive and anxiety symptoms, pain, alcohol misuse, sleep problems, grief, and nonadherence with treatment for chronic medical problems. PACT members can also refer a high-risk or more complicated patient (e.g., a patient with psychotic or manic symptoms) to a PC-MHI provider for further evaluation and recommendations. These initial consultations are generally 30 minutes or less and involve brief functional assessments and triage. Patients who are followed in PC-MHI will receive goal-focused brief therapy. Follow up sessions in PC-MHI are generally 30 minutes or less and most patients are seen for an average of 3-6 sessions. Patients not appropriate for brief interventions are typically referred to a VA specialty mental health clinic (e.g., Trauma Recovery Center, Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program).

The Intern will be an integral part of the PC-MHI team at main campus for patients seen in the general PC Clinic, Women's Health Clinic, and the Post 9/11 Clinic and will be given the opportunity to collaborate with PACT team members to provide integrative care to patients. This will include providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) in both group and individual modalities. The Intern will also be given the opportunity to participate in staff meetings and in program development.

The PC-MHI team at the main campus consists of one psychiatrist, three psychologists, a nurse practitioner, two clinical social workers, and a program support assistant. Additional PC-MHI team members are located in several CBOCs, and virtual PC-MHI services (phone/VVC) are also provided by all PC-MHI staff to the CBOCs that do not have a PC-MHI provider on site.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Sefferino and Jones

## **Substance Use Disorder/PTSD Services of the Substance Use Disorders Programs**

The Substance Use Disorder/Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (SUD/PTSD) Program is an outpatient program designed to address the specific needs of Veterans dually diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Use Disorders. The program treats Veterans with a range of traumas including combat, military sexual trauma, and childhood abuse. Both disorders are treated concurrently, and substance use concerns are addressed with either a harm reduction or abstinence-based model. Treatment is individualized for Veterans in the program.

Coping skills groups are available to Veterans that draw from the Seeking Safety model, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and other relevant treatment models. These groups allow Veterans the opportunity to learn how to cope with their SUD and PTSD symptoms without discussing trauma. Separate Seeking Safety groups are offered for women Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and younger Veterans. Other Veterans prefer individual therapy, and Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders and Relapse Prevention are provided in the program and are training opportunities for Interns.

SUD/PTSD is a small cohesive team whose members value the contributions made by interns. The team includes two psychologists, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and a masters level counselor. Interns are integrated into this team and participate in all treatment team meetings and functions. Interns complete interview and psychometric assessments, serve as co-therapists in groups, and have the opportunity to learn several types of therapy. In addition to trauma-focused therapies, interns receive systematic feedback on their Motivational Interviewing skills. Interns conduct Motivational Interviewing sessions with patients admitted for medical detoxification after heavy alcohol use. These sessions are then coded by Dr. Steinberg using the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity (MITI) Scale and interns are given feedback to facilitate skill development.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Gore and Steinberg

# Substance Use Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

The SUD Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program is a 17-bed facility for Veterans whose primary presenting concern is Substance Use Disorder. Veterans enrolled in this program also frequently present with a number of complicating factors including comorbid psychiatric diagnoses, serious psychosocial stressors (e.g., homelessness, legal issues, relational discord), and co-occurring physical conditions (e.g., poor overall health, cognitive problems, substance-related medical conditions). Treatment occurs in a collaborative, interdisciplinary setting in which physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, social workers, nurses, and addiction therapists work together to provide a holistic approach to care.

During this training rotation, interns serve as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team and treatment planning process for Veterans participating in the program. Interns are responsible for leading or co-leading four psychotherapy groups per week, working individually with Veterans for time-limited therapy, attending daily treatment team meetings, and participating in various didactics. The primary focus of Intern training is group therapy, which is taught through an apprenticeship model in which interns initially function as co-therapists. The program offers training in a variety of group psychotherapy models such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention (MBRP), and interpersonal process. Interns also learn other evidence-based treatment approaches such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders and Motivational Interviewing. An emphasis is also placed on learning fundamental therapy skills that are generalizable to working in any clinical context, as well as on flexible implementation of treatment modalities to comport with the unique needs of a given individual or group. Finally, interns have the opportunity to conduct program evaluation projects.

**Supervisors:** Dr. Kirkman

## **Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Treatment Program**

The outpatient SUDEP clinic provides services to Veterans with substance use and addictive disorders. Veterans presenting for treatment have a wide range of preferred substances, severity of symptoms, and comorbid mental health issues. Therefore, this rotation requires an intern to be flexible in approach and technique in accordance with Veterans' presenting problems and goals (e.g., abstinence vs. harm reduction). SUDEP interns have the opportunity to participate in individual psychotherapy, education groups (e.g., DBT-informed skills training, relapse prevention), psychological testing, and psychosocial assessments. Interns can also develop their own group programming, if desired. To support this work, the SUDEP rotation offers training in acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) skills, mindfulness-based relapse prevention (MBRP), and motivational interviewing/motivational enhancement therapy (MI/MET). Finally, SUDEP interns attend weekly team meetings to consult with other SUDEP team members and have access to in-service trainings provided by and for staff. This rotation is ideal for interns who want experience treating Veterans with a variety of substance use and addictive disorders and who wish to develop and strengthen core clinical skills that can be applied with any population.

**Supervisor:** Drs. Sleep and Zane Faulkner

## Trauma Recovery Center

The Trauma Recovery Center provides evaluation and treatment to Veterans who have experienced all types of trauma. These services are offered on an outpatient basis, as well as within one of three structured seven week residential programs (men's, women's, PTSD/TBI). The program is open to all Veterans, regardless of service era or gender. Although many of the Veterans have combat-related PTSD, a significant number of Veterans treated in the Trauma Recovery Center also exhibit PTSD related to non-combat traumas (e.g., childhood abuse, sexual violence, accidents). Specialized services for women and men with military sexual trauma are also available. The program uses various forms of evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral interventions to help Veterans reduce their symptoms of PTSD and related disorders. These interventions can include Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Present Centered Therapy, and Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD. Through these various treatments, Veterans are given an opportunity to identify, and begin processing, pivotal traumatic experiences and to place these experiences within a broader life context.

Interns become a part of the residential and/or the outpatient treatment program where they will join a multidisciplinary team providing services to Veterans with various types of trauma histories, including combat and sexual traumas. Their work includes assessment as well as individual and group therapy. Group therapy experiences include serving as a co-therapist in trauma/exposure work, anger management and cognitive-behavioral groups. Psychological evaluation experiences include both general psychometric tests, as well as more specific instruments targeting PTSD symptoms. Interns learn skills that generalize to a variety of trauma populations. Emphasis is placed on treating PTSD symptoms and co-morbid conditions such as personality issues, substance use issues, limited social support, and other obstacles to recovery.

The Trauma Recovery Center also offers research experiences to interns either as part of their major rotation or as a separate minor rotation (see description in next section). The Division is very active in treatment outcome research, grant writing, and article writing. Interns have the opportunity to be involved at all levels, including mentorship in how to run a research study, how to write a grant, and how to submit an article for publication. In addition, the division has a sizeable database of information on Veterans' treatment that is available to interns interested in writing articles or submitting to national conferences. Recent projects that interns were involved in were grant submissions to NIMH and VA on using Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) to treat Veterans who served in Iraq and their families, and comparing CPT to Present-Centered Therapy (PCT) among OIF/OEF/OND combat Veterans. Our placement rate for those interns who elect to pursue post-doctoral fellowships in PTSD is currently 100%.

As part of this rotation interns will have the opportunity to attend a three day CPT training and to implement CPT under the supervision of VISN 10 Regional CPT Trainers. Once all requirements are met, interns will qualify for national CPT provider status.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Chard, Caldwell, Bailey, Fahey, Klump, Lewis, Martin, Stayton-Coe, and Weiss.

# Treatment Recovery and Activity Center (TRAC)

TRAC is the facility's psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center (PRRC). The main mission of this outpatient program is to help those with chronic and severe mental health disorders lead productive and meaningful lives in their communities. Accordingly, staff work with Veterans to establish stability through individualized goal setting and skill building with the overall purpose of fostering community reintegration. TRAC is a group-based program and provides both psychoeducational and psychotherapeutic groups.

Creative and therapeutic activities are also offered to foster healing, such as yoga, gardening, and visual arts. The relationship with those we serve in recovery is more engaged than in many other clinical situations, so there are wonderful opportunities to work with Veterans over a longer period of time and to greater depth than is found in other programs. It is also less structured or formal at times, as it facilitates peer to peer connections. The training model for Interns in TRAC is developmental. Initially they sit in on groups and shadow other staff members, gradually taking on more independence to lead and/or develop groups over the training year, as well as taking on the role of recovery coach to individual Veterans.

**Supervisors:** Dr. Peterson (primary) and Dr. Gordon

# Minor Rotation Opportunities

Each Intern will complete a minor rotation that lasts the entire year. Minor rotations are eight hours per week, which includes one hour of supervision with a licensed psychologist. This rotation is intended to supplement the major rotations by giving the opportunity either to connect with a staff member with whom they would not otherwise have an opportunity to work, to learn a unique skills or treatment approach, or to work with a specific Veteran population. Consistent with the emphasis within the internship on training psychologists who are well-rounded, the minor rotation is also often used to fill gaps in previous training.

Minor rotations can serve as scaled-down versions of some major rotations, but certain major rotations are not available as minor rotations such as Health psychology, Pain Management, and SUD Residential Rehabilitation. Some training experiences only exist as minor rotations such as Motivational Interviewing and the Tobacco Treatment Clinic.

While the major focus of this internship program is the acquisition and development of clinical skills, students with a strong clinical background may choose research as a minor rotation. Working with a staff psychologist, the Intern would develop, carry out and analyze results for a specific research project. At the end of the year, the work product would be a publication-quality summary of the research effort.

## **Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)**

Cognitive Processing Therapy is one of two evidence-based treatments recommended by VA/DoD for treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Within the Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) at the Ft. Thomas Division of Cincinnati VAMC, interns will have the opportunity to attend a three day training and to implement CPT under the supervision of VISN 10 Regional CPT Trainers. Once all requirements are met, interns will qualify for national CPT provider status.

Within this rotation interns are provided one hour of group supervision and one hour of telephone Consultation for CPT. In addition, interns will have the opportunity to work with up to four patients per week utilizing CPT. As scheduling permits, students will also have the opportunity to observe diagnostic assessments within the TRC and to meet with TRC Staff during CPT Group Supervision where they can hear firsthand, seasoned CPT providers discussing complex cases. This rotation is optimal for interns who may want to have some experience and training in the treatment of PTSD without completing the PTSD Major Rotation. Of note, if you match with us on the Trauma track you would not do the CPT minor rotation as that experience is already contained within TRC major rotation.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Lewis & Stayton-Coe

## **Community Mental Health (Clermont County Community Based Outpatient Clinic)**

Please see description above in the section titled Major Rotation Opportunities.

## **Motivational Interviewing and Motivational Enhancement Therapy**

This minor rotation provides opportunities for interns to develop Motivational Interviewing expertise. Essential skills are taught through multiple modalities – workshop, readings and behavioral practice. Interns observe and then conduct Motivational Interviewing with patients in varied settings. Initially, interns work with a team that cares for Veterans receiving inpatient detoxification from alcohol. They record Motivational Interviewing sessions which are then coded using the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity scale (MITI 4.2). Once full proficiency is achieved, interns have opportunities to extend their skills to work in primary care or other medical settings and to participate in training other staff.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Fresemeier and Steinberg

## Neuropsychology

Please see description above in the section titled Major Rotation Opportunities.

## SUD and Chronic Disease Research

Interns on this minor rotation participate in research/program development & evaluation projects in the Substance Dependence Treatment Program (SUDEP). Interns work closely with their supervisors to develop ideas for projects that are feasible to complete within the training year. This may include contributing to a manuscript, conducting a small independent research study, or developing a new clinical initiative and evaluating its impact. Interns have access to relevant clinical and research software, such as CPRS/Vista, SPSS, and Excel, and will be expected to present their findings to the SUDEP staff at the completion of their Internship.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Sleep

## Trauma Recovery Center Research

Trauma Recovery Center staff are actively involved in ongoing applied clinical research. As part of the research minor rotation, interns would have the opportunity to utilize the clinic's large-scale database of nearly 3,000 patients who have participated in either the outpatient or residential Trauma Recovery Center treatment programs. These data are collected as part of routine clinical care through the Trauma Recovery Center and include structured clinical interview data (e.g., CAPS-5, SCID-5), primary self-report outcome measures (e.g., PCL-5, PHQ-9, BDI-II), secondary self-report measures (e.g., measures of coping, trauma-related cognitions, etc.), and information gathered from clinical chart review (e.g., session attendance and therapy session content, demographic information, etc.). The datasets provide opportunities for interns to gain experience in effectiveness and quality improvement research. In addition, Trauma Recovery Center staff are actively involved in funded efficacy research, and interns would have opportunities to learn about grant-writing and administration. Finally, this rotation provides opportunities for interns to co-author manuscripts as well as take lead authorship on scientific manuscripts.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Chard, Martin, and Stayton Coe

## Treatment Recovery and Activity Center (TRAC)

Please see description above in the section titled Major Rotation Opportunities.

## Novel Minor Rotation Experiences

Known locally in our program as the "Do It Yourself Minor" or DIY rotation, periodically we have been able to create minor rotations that are not ordinarily offered each year in order to accommodate a specific intern learning goal. These unique and meaningful rotation experiences date back to the 1997-1998 training year, and are consistent with our training program's emphasis on working with our interns to generate personalized learning plans. Recent DIY rotations have included training experiences in Spirituality and Mental Health, Chronic Pain Management, Sleep Medicine, Mindfulness, and Mental Health Leadership and Administration. A DIY rotation is also available in hypnosis.

These rotations are always subject to supervisor availability and Psychology Training Committee approval, and are discussed and organized during orientation week at the start of the internship year.

**Supervisors:** Various Staff

# Assessment Requirements and Outpatient Therapy Cases

## Assessment

To promote the refinement and continued development of assessment skills, interns are asked to demonstrate proficiency in five areas of assessment over the course of their training year. These areas of competency include: (1) cognitive screening; (2) personality assessment; (3) clinical interviewing/differential diagnosis; (4) self-report questionnaires/repeated measures; and (5) conceptualization. Specifically, trainees are supervised in their use of brief neuropsychological measures (e.g., RBANS, MoCA, SLUMS), objective personality tests (e.g., MMPI-2-RF, PAI), clinical interviews (e.g., SCID-5, ADIS-5), and longitudinal indices of treatment outcome, with emphasis on self-report questionnaires. Moreover, interns are evaluated on their ability to synthesize assessment results and use obtained information to guide case conceptualization and treatment.

## Outpatient Psychotherapy Cases

Each Intern carries three long-term psychotherapy cases throughout the internship year. On the basis of their interests and skill-development needs, interns may select individual, marital or family cases. Supervision is provided to interns on a regular weekly basis by their assigned staff psychologists. Audio- and videotaping of sessions are readily available for supervision purposes.

The overall purpose of this training experience is to afford interns the opportunity to work with Veterans for a longer period of time than is common in contemporary brief therapy models, to work with Veterans at various levels of readiness for change, and to practice generating case conceptualizations and treatment planning for Veterans with complex presentations and/or multiple sources of distress or impairment. Beyond a basic familiarity with a given therapy approach, this training experience is designed to explore how to:

- Flexibly adapt therapy processes and techniques based on Veteran goals, language, background, and culture while retaining fidelity to the core elements of the therapy
- Reflect on one's own stimulus value, worldview, and other factors that clinicians bring to the therapeutic relationship, and track those over the course of multiple sessions
- Recognize patterns in the therapeutic relationship including trust, motivation, empathic attunement, and the role of clinician behavior in shaping the interactions between client and therapist
- Increase mindful awareness of the quality of the therapeutic relationship and use that to anticipate the effects of this relationship on the success of therapeutic interventions

## Professional Conference

Professional Conference meets weekly for one hour. It is designed to meet the interests and growth needs of the professional Psychology staff and interns. The Cincinnati VA Psychology Training Program is an approved provider of Mandatory Continuing Education credits for licensed psychologists by the Ohio Board of Psychology. Several of the professional conferences are specialized programs designed for MCE credits. Our psychology staff members regularly present at these conferences, and each Intern presents a clinical case during the training year. The most recent version of the professional conference schedule can be found in Appendix B.

## Intern Seminar

This weekly, 90 minute seminar is attended by interns only. Some topics include information specific to our VA hospital and the Veterans' population, while others focus on issues of specific interest requested by the Intern class. Seminars may be one-time presentations or span as long as four weeks. Seminar leaders have included both VA hospital staff members and consultants from the community. Aspects of human diversity, including race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, physical illness and disability are covered in seminars throughout the year. The most recent version of the Intern seminar schedule can be found in Appendix C.

## Training in Empirically Supported Treatments and Evidence-Based Practices

The following are a list of trainings in ESTs and EBPs available in the internship. Access to some of them is dependent on supervisor and rotation assignment:

- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- Behavioral Family Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Social Anxiety

Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD  
Dialectical Behavioral Therapy  
Empirically Supported Therapy Relationships  
Exposure and Response Prevention for OCD  
Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention for Substance Use Disorders  
Motivational Interviewing  
Motivation Enhancement Therapy  
Panic Control Treatment for Panic Disorder  
Prolonged Exposure for PTSD  
Present Centered Therapy  
Seeking Safety for PTSD and Substance Use Disorders Social Skills Training

## Motivational Interviewing Training

Motivational Interviewing is a therapeutic modality designed to assist individuals who seek to identify and strengthen their own motivation to make behavioral changes. It is among the most studied of psychological interventions with over 250 controlled studies, and has been used to help people make changes in substance use, smoking, diet, and other health behaviors. All psychology Interns attend a two-day introductory workshop at the beginning of the training year that teaches the spirit and skills necessary to conduct Motivational Interviewing. However, dissemination research has found that such workshops are insufficient for most people to achieve competence in utilizing this therapy. Follow-up training is offered in the SA/PTSD major rotation and Motivational Interviewing and Motivation Enhancement Therapy minor rotations. The essential feature of the follow-up training is recording Motivational Therapy sessions which are then coded using the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity (MITI) Scale. This scale provides a systematic way of providing feedback to improve skills.

**Supervisors:** Drs. Frensemeier and Steinberg.

# Intern Hour and Committees

## Intern Hour

Each week, the Intern class has one protected hour to meet as a group. This allows Interns to maintain consistent contact with one another during the training year as they progress through their various training rotations. Past cohorts have reported that Intern Hour was a key aspect of acclimating to internship and sharing training information.

As a program we encourage each incoming Intern class to use this protected time as a source of peer support, communication, and weekly self-care.

Interns who are interested in participating in **Psychology Program Committees** have opportunities to join either the Training Committee or the Diversity Committee.

## Training Committee

The Psychology Training Committee includes the Director of Training, Associate Director of Training, members of the Training Staff, and representatives from the Internship and Fellowship classes. Interns who serve on this committee participate in committee deliberations about policies and procedures, changes in training rotations and expectations, and issues that impact their own training classes. Intern members also are an integral part of our recruitment process, serve as liaisons between the training staff and the Intern class, and collect feedback data from the Intern class during the training year. Typically, two members of the Intern class serve on this committee.

## Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee's mission statement is as follows: Psychologists are tasked with the ethical responsibility to provide appropriate and culturally-informed care. As such, the aim of this committee is to provide training, mentorship, and consultation that promote the generation of knowledge, tools, and experiences necessary to assist in the implementation of culturally-sensitive and inclusive practices. With the understanding and acknowledgment of historic and contemporary challenges faced by members from various backgrounds and communities, this committee seeks to support psychologists and trainees as they strive for the highest ethical ideals in the assessment and treatment of the diverse Veterans we serve.

Typically 1-4 members of the Intern class serve on this committee. They are involved in the planning and presentation of our diversity workshops, and the committee welcomes their input into the exchange of ideas and group exploration that take place within this learning community.

# Life After Internship

Our interns have been successful in securing an impressive array of positions following their internship year. A sampling of recent Postdoctoral Fellowships include:

- National Center for PTSD – Boston
- OAA Research Fellowship – Central Texas Center of Excellence for Returning Veterans
- Denver Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC),
- VA Boston Health Care System
- VA Northeast Ohio Health Care System
- University of Michigan Medical Center
- The VA National Center for Organizational Development
- Women's Health Fellowship, Milwaukee VA Medical Center
- Harry S. Truman VA Medical Center in Columbia, Missouri - PTSD/TBI Fellowship
- NIH-Sponsored Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation Chronic Pain Treatment Program
- Northwestern University in Neuropsychology
- Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in Neuropsychology
- The Geissinger Clinic, Danville, PA in Neuropsychology
- Rush University Medical College, Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship
- The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
- Brown University Medical School in Neuropsychology

Other interns have gone on to forensic positions in the federal prison system as well as clinical positions at both community mental health centers and private practices. Our graduates also serve on the faculties of the Ohio State University, University of Dayton, Miami University of Ohio, University of Tennessee, Radford University, and the University of Kentucky. The Veterans Administration is invested in retaining top talent, and positions within the VA are also possibilities for graduating interns. Recent graduates from our internship are currently working at VA Medical Centers in Indianapolis, San Diego, Huntington, Lexington, American Lake, and here in Cincinnati. In fact, half of our own psychology staff at the Cincinnati VAMC are former interns, fellows, and practicum students.

# Applying to the Internship

## Internship Year & Stipend

The internship year begins July 15, 2024 and ends July 11, 2025. The training stipend is \$34,834. Interns receive paid federal holidays and 13 days of leave for vacation and/or professional development. State and federal income tax and FICA (Social Security) are withheld from interns' checks. The United States government covers interns for malpractice under the Federal Liability Reform Tort Act. Interns are eligible for health insurance benefits.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the eligibility qualifications for psychology training within the Department of Veterans Affairs, which are described at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/hpt-eligibility.asp>

The following list of requirements were current at the time of the writing of this brochure, but please consult the link above to get the most current guidance.

- Three years of graduate study, completion of comprehensive exams, and acceptance as a doctoral candidate into a graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS). Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical or Counseling Psychology are also eligible.
- Approval for internship status by graduate program training director
- Completion of a minimum of 300 AAPI Intervention Hours.
- Completion of a minimum of 150 adult psychotherapy hours (individual, couples, or group).
- Dissertation proposal approved by beginning of internship.
- Completion of the online APPIC application procedure.
- U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.

- Federal law requires that most males living in the US between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System. Male, for this purpose, is any individual assigned male on their birth certificate regardless of current gender. Males required to register, but who failed to do so by their 26th birthday, are barred from any position in any Executive Agency. Visit <https://www.sss.gov> to register, print proof of registration, or apply for a Status Information Letter.
- Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. Please review the relevant links here <https://www.va.gov/oaa/hpt-eligibility.asp>

Incorrect, incomplete or falsified information provided in the application may be grounds for dismissal. By submitting an application for internship, you are agreeing to these conditions, as well as authorizing release of information.

- In accord with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program, interns accepted here may be asked to submit a urine specimen as part of their pre-employment physical. Once on staff they are also subject to random selection for testing as are other employees. Ongoing participation in the internship is contingent on passing these screens. Please review the relevant links here <https://www.va.gov/oaa/hpt-eligibility.asp>
- Please note: as a Federal training site our program staff and trainees follow the federal guidelines and requirements for the VHA with regard to COVID-based safety measures and vaccinations.
- As an equal opportunity training program, we believe that diversity among departmental members strengthens our staff, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and allows us to provide more sensitive and effective patient care. We welcome diversity in our Internship class, and we warmly encourage minorities and persons of diverse backgrounds of all types to apply.

We seek applicants who have a sound clinical and scientific knowledge base from their academic program, strong basic skills in standard assessment, psychotherapy, and research techniques, and the personal characteristics necessary to function well in our internship setting. Our selection criteria are based on a "goodness-of-fit" with our training opportunities. We prefer to build an Intern class that comes from many different kinds of programs and theoretical orientations, from different geographical areas, of different ages, of different cultural backgrounds, and with different life experiences.

**Very strong candidates** for our internship would be those who have achieved one or more of the following in their graduate school and practicum experiences:

- Intervention: 500 intervention hours accrued in quality settings with populations consistent with our site (e.g., military personnel or Veterans, hospitals, adults, severe psychopathology), and experience with at least one empirically supported treatment.

- **Assessment:** 150 assessment hours, at least 5 integrated reports, and good experience with diagnostic interviewing and utilizing sound personality and cognitive assessment instruments.
- **Scholarship:** Research productivity as evidenced by one or more first author publications in a quality peer-reviewed journal or several peer-reviewed publications for which the applicant is a contributing author.
- **Diversity:** Demonstrable pattern of valuing of diversity through prior work with diverse clients and strong articulation of a sensitivity to and/or awareness of diversity considerations in their applications and interviews.

\* It is also important to recognize that specific prior experience is particularly relevant when applying to our Trauma Recovery Center, Health, and Neuropsychology tracks. Strong applicants for Neuropsychology will have accumulated advanced training and experience with a wide range of Neuropsychological instruments and neurobehavioral disorders. Strong Applicants for Health will have accumulated training and experience with health promotion, illness prevention, pain management, behavioral medicine, or related area of health psychology. Strong applicants for the Trauma Recovery Center will have prior experience with empirically supported treatments for PTSD, treatment experience with military-related PTSD, and research productivity related to PTSD.

## Application Procedure

Applications must be received no later than 11:59pm on November 1, 2023 and must be completed online. Applications must include:

- A completed online AAPI and online verification by your Director of Clinical Training
- Three letters of recommendation
- A current Curriculum Vitae
- An official transcript of all graduate work
- **A clear list of Track Preference(s) and Rotation Preferences at the top of your cover letter:** General Clinical, Neuropsychology, Trauma Recovery Center, or Health. You may apply to more than one track. We assume that if you list the Neuropsychology or

Trauma Recover Center tracks that you are interested in those corresponding major rotations. If you are interested in the Health or General Clinical tracks please indicate your top choice of rotation within those tracks. You cannot match to our internship on more than one track, but you may indicate interest in more than one track in your application and may rank more than one track in the APPIC Match.

Your list of track and rotation preferences is used for the purpose of scheduling interviews - you may change your track and rotation preferences at any time prior to submitting your rank lists.

After listing your track preferences, please also list 3 or 4 major and minor rotations of potential interest to you. A sample format for this would be

**Track Preference:** Health Track: Pain Management rotation

**Additional Rotations:** SUD/PTSD, CPT minor rotation, Clermont CBOC

The psychology training committee will review all completed applications. This committee includes the Director of Training, the Associate Director of Training, psychology staff, and current interns. Applicants may seek consideration for any or all training tracks. Those not meeting the eligibility requirements will be notified as soon as possible.

Of the over 130-150 applications we typically receive in a given year, we typically offer interviews to 75 candidates. Our program, and the Cincinnati VA Medical Center as a whole, are committed to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity in Employment. Applicants are welcome to contact Dr. Zinnbauer with any questions.

## Interviews

Applicants will be notified by email whether or not they will be invited to interview by December 1, 2023. If you are selected to interview, you will be invited to participate in one of our five half-day interview events and you will also be notified for which track(s) your application is being considered. Interview days will take place from Noon - 4:30pm and will consist of meetings with training staff and current interns.

This past year all of our interviews were conducted through video conferencing and we expect this to be the same in the current recruitment cycle. The interview format and interview options will be confirmed when the invitations for interviews are sent out by email.

Wednesday December 6, 2023

Monday December 11, 2023

Tuesday January 9, 2024

Tuesday January 23, 2024

Tuesday January 30, 2024

## Contact Information

Brian Zinnbauer PhD, ABPP, Director of Training  
Cincinnati VAMC 3200 Vine St.  
Cincinnati OH 45220  
Telephone: 513.861.3100 x204969

Email: [brian.zinnbauer@va.gov](mailto:brian.zinnbauer@va.gov)

## Please Note

This internship site abides by all APPIC policies, including the directive that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any Intern applicant prior to Uniform Notification Day.

This doctoral internship is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association as a doctoral internship in health service psychology.

\*Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
American Psychological Association  
750 First St, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Email: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org)  
Phone: (202) 336-5979 TDD/TTY: (202) 336-6123  
Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

It is important for us to let you know that, in accord with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program, interns accepted here may be asked to submit a urine specimen as part of their pre-employment physical. Other branches of the federal government may also conduct

routine background checks as an additional pre-employment requirement. Incorrect, incomplete or falsified information may be grounds for dismissal. By submitting an application for internship, you are agreeing to these conditions, as well as authorizing release of information. You are also agreeing to abide by all policies and procedures of a federal workplace, should you accept an internship position at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center.

## **APPIC Match Numbers**

**Our match numbers are:**

**General Clinical - 150411**

**Neuropsychology - 150412**

**Trauma Recovery Center - 150413**

**Health - 150414**

Please note that if you do not match on the Neuropsychology or Trauma Recovery Tracks, you will not have access to those rotations. If you do not match on the Health Track, you may have access to a health or pain rotation but this is not guaranteed. Also, applicants may apply to more than one track, but a single applicant cannot match with our internship on two separate tracks; so major rotation combinations such as the Trauma Recovery Center and Neuropsychology, or Health and Neuropsychology are not typically available.

Interns seeking a VA internship are often interested in receiving training in trauma treatment during their internship year. We can accommodate this through a number of major and minor rotations including the Cognitive Processing Therapy minor rotation which is open to multiple interns.

## The Psychology Training Staff

The broad range of background, expertise, and experience represented in the staff at the Cincinnati VA is also reflected in the variety of clinical services delivered throughout the hospital. Staff who are actively involved in the training program are listed below.

### Gregory W. Bailey, Ph.D.

**Loyola University Chicago, 2002**

**Director of Outpatient Services, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Bailey is a psychologist in the Trauma Recovery Center. He oversees the day-to-day management of outpatient services for Veterans with PTSD. Dr. Bailey provides individual, group, and couples-based therapy as well as diagnostic assessments. In addition to the cognitive-behavioral approaches often used at the TRC, Dr. Bailey has experience with interpersonal and family-based approaches to psychotherapy. Dr. Bailey earned his Ph.D. from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Before coming to the Cincinnati VA, Dr. Bailey worked for a non-profit organization recognized for research, training, and clinical service provision to children and families affected by prenatal substance exposure. His responsibilities included providing psychological services to high risk children, adolescents, young adults and their families.

## **Nicola K. Caldwell, Ph.D.**

**University of Pittsburgh, 2003**

**Associate Director, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Caldwell completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and her postdoctoral training with the United States Army where she served as an Active Duty officer at the rank of Captain providing a full range of psychological services for eligible military personnel and their dependents. She is a staff psychologist in the Trauma Recovery center, lead therapist for the men's PTSD residential program, and the coordinator for all residential PTSD programs. Working primarily in the residential programs, Dr. Caldwell provides individual and group psychotherapy utilizing cognitive behavioral approaches within an integrated client-centered, humanistic and systems theoretical framework. She also conducts diagnostic assessments for both outpatient and residential programs. Dr. Caldwell provides supervision for interns in the areas of diagnostic assessment and individual and group psychotherapy. From a clinical and research perspective, she is interested in treatment outcomes, and exploring conduits to bridging the research to practice gap.

# Alexandra "Ali" Carr, Psy.D.

**University of Indianapolis, 2020**

**Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology & Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Carr completed her predoctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, followed by an APPCN-accredited neuropsychology fellowship at Wake Forest University's School of Medicine. She then returned to the Cincinnati VA in the fall of 2022 as a full-time staff member. Clinical responsibilities include providing neuropsychological evaluations to assist with differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and in certain cases, to determine decision making capacity. During her time at Fort Thomas, she completes thorough chart reviews for incoming residential admissions and sees veterans at the TRC on an as needed basis. She is also part of the residential treatment team at Fort Thomas and provides recommendations as it relates to cognitive sequelae in those with history of TBI or other relevant neurological history. Lastly, she provides supervision to our interns and assists with the neuropsychology-focused didactics.

## **Kathleen M. Chard, Ph.D.**

**Indiana University, 1994**

**Director, Trauma Recovery Center**

**Associate Chief of Staff for Research**

Dr. Chard is the Associate Chief of Staff for Research, Director of the Trauma Recovery Center and she is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati. In her position she oversees the outpatient and residential treatment programs in the Trauma Recovery Center. Dr. Chard is also the Director the National VA CPT Dissemination Initiative designed to provide training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy to clinicians throughout the VA system. Dr. Chard completed her Ph.D. at Indiana University and her postdoctoral training at the Center for Trauma Recovery in St. Louis, Missouri. Her prior positions were as an Associate Professor and the Director of the Center for Traumatic Stress Research at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Chard is the creator of Cognitive Processing Therapy for Sexual Abuse and she is co-author of the Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD: Comprehensive Manual. Dr. Chard's research interests include examining the effectiveness of empirically supported, cognitive treatments for the treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, as well as the mediating effects of positive psychology variables on treatment outcome. She is currently Co-Chair of a 17-site study comparing CPT with Prolonged Exposure in Veterans of all eras. Dr. Chard is a past Associate Editor of the Journal of Traumatic Stress and a member of the ISTSS Board of Directors. She has over 50 peer reviewed manuscripts and numerous presentations related to PTSD and efficacy-based treatments

## **Lyndsay Griffin Colvin, Psy.D.**

**Wright State University, 2016**

**Staff Psychologist, Pain Management Services**

Dr. Griffin Colvin is currently a staff psychologist in the Pain Management Clinic. She graduated from Wright State University following completion of internship at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center in 2016. Directly following graduation Dr. Griffin Colvin joined the Cincinnati VAMC staff. Her primary role is working within the interdisciplinary team that serves Veterans learning to live life with chronic pain. She is also a member of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) interdisciplinary team and has clinical interest in working with veterans who have been diagnosed with neurological conditions. She serves on the Diversity Training Committee and is passionate about discussing the way in which our many diversity variables impact the way in which we interact in the world. Dr. Griffin Colvin works from an integrative approach, blending conceptualization and treatment techniques from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Interpersonal Therapy. She is also trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Biofeedback.

## **Amy Fahey, Ph.D.**

**University of Louisville, 2003**

**Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center**

**Cincinnati VA Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) Coordinator**

Dr. Fahey is currently one of the lead clinicians in the women's PTSD Residential program, a position she has held since joining the VA in 2008. She completed a doctoral internship and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago (UIC), Department of Psychiatry, specializing in stress and anxiety disorders and cognitive behavior therapy. While at UIC she served as a certified cognitive therapist on the STAR\*D treatment effectiveness study, a large, multi-site study sponsored by NIMH designed to assess the effectiveness of a variety of treatments for depression. During her fellowship year at UIC she also completed additional research training in The Brain-Body Center and provided cognitive-behavior therapy supervision to PGY-3 Psychiatry Residents. In her current position, Dr. Fahey conducts diagnostic assessments in both the residential and outpatient programs, and also provides individual and group treatment to Veterans with PTSD. Dr. Fahey provides clinical supervision for interns in the areas of diagnostic assessment, individual therapy, and group therapy. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral.

## **Ryan Faulkner, Psy.D.**

**Wright State University, 2004**

**Director, Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans**

**Director, Veterans Justice Outreach**

In his position as Director of the Domiciliary, Dr. Faulkner oversees the administrative and clinical functions of the Domiciliary, Veterans Therapeutic Work Program, and the Veterans Justice Outreach program. His clinical work is predominately focused on cognitive-behavioral approaches. His current clinical interests are in the areas of substance use disorders, co-morbid mental health conditions, and sociological factors contributing to homelessness. Dr. Faulkner also has considerable experience with PTSD, having served as the Associate Director of the Trauma Recovery Center from 2008-2012.

Prior to coming to the Cincinnati VAMC, Dr. Faulkner was employed with a community mental health agency where he served as the community and treatment liaison to the Northern Kentucky adolescent drug courts as part of a 3-year SAMHSA grant. As part of this position, Dr. Faulkner provided clinical and administrative oversight to the intensive outpatient treatment providers of 3 adolescent drug courts in the region, coordinated the development of appropriate process and outcome measures in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment program, coordinated IOP treatment with the court system, local school districts, and various social service agencies, and developed and maintained community contacts in order to increase appropriate adolescent referrals and participation in drug courts and IOP treatment.

# Zane Faulkner, Psy.D.

**Wright State University, 2019**

**Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Substance Use Treatment Program (SUDEP)**

**Coordinator, Outpatient SUDEP**

**LGBTQ+ Co- Veteran Care Coordinator**

Dr. Faulkner graduated from Wright State University in 2019 and completed his pre-doctoral internship training at the Cincinnati VAMC. Following internship, Dr. Faulkner completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the Cincinnati VAMC in HIV & Liver Disease, with a minor rotation in the Pain Management Clinic. He was subsequently hired to work in Outpatient SUDEP, is the coordinator of the Outpatient SUDEP program, and spends part of his time receiving "warm handoffs" from the Infectious Diseases Clinic. Dr. Faulkner currently serves on the Psychology Training Committee, as well as the Assessment and Social subcommittees. Dr. Faulkner is also one of the LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinators. In this role, he works to support Veterans with LGBTQ+ identities—connecting them to affirming care and promoting a culture of acceptance, support, and understanding throughout the Cincinnati VAMC. Dr. Faulkner also promotes understanding of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policies related to LGBTQ+ Veteran care and offers education both within the facility and to community partners. The Cincinnati VAMC proudly participates in Cincinnati Pride!

In terms of clinical approach, Dr. Faulkner primarily conceptualizes cases and intervenes from an acceptance and commitment therapy approach (ACT). He has participated in several ACT trainings, including a multi-day "Boot Camp" and multi-week on-line trainings. Dr. Faulkner enjoys teaching others about ACT, self-compassion, and other mindfulness and acceptance-based approaches, including mindfulness-based relapse prevention (MBRP). He believes in a process-based treatment approach that is focused on function and workability in the service of the Veteran's values and goals.

# Janell Giannitelli, Psy.D.

**Xavier University, 2004**

**Associate Director, Psychology Training Program**

**Staff Psychologist, Bellevue, KY Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)**

Dr. Giannitelli works in one of the Cincinnati VA's community based Outpatient clinics (CBOC). The clinic is located in Bellevue, Kentucky (which is across the river from downtown Cincinnati) and is designed to offer outpatient services to Veterans in a location closer to where they live. The clinic offers services in primary care, nurse triage and anticoagulation, lab work, psychology, psychiatry, social work, optometry, pharmacy, and nutrition. Dr. Giannitelli provides individual and group therapy, psychological assessment, and psychoeducational classes to Veterans with a wide range of presenting problems.

Her clinical approach is an integration of cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal process techniques. She adapts her approach to therapy based on the individual needs of each client. Dr. Giannitelli values multidisciplinary collaboration and strives to facilitate comprehensive care for her clients, especially clients dealing with health issues. She also enjoys taking part in the training program and supervising interns and practicum students. In her position as Associate Director of the Psychology Training Program, she assists with the development and management of the doctoral internship and clinical practicum training programs.

## **Nalda Gordon, Psy.D. Dr.P.H.**

**Loma Linda University, 2002**

**Program Director, Treatment Recovery and Activity Center (TRAC)/Psychosocial Recovery and Rehabilitation Center (PRRC)**

Dr. Gordon is the program director of the Treatment Recovery and Activity Center, an outpatient recovery-based PRRC program. The purpose of the PRRC (Psychosocial Recovery and Rehabilitation Center) is to help veterans with severe mental illness learn the skills to live a productive and fulfilling life. In this setting, Dr. Gordon mainly provides treatment through psychoeducational and psychotherapeutic groups as well as individual therapy. Dr. Gordon tends toward a psychodynamic theoretical approach, but prefers to be eclectic in practice, believing that the varying needs of clients necessitates flexible treatment approaches.

Dr. Gordon completed her doctoral work at Loma Linda University in California. She also completed a doctoral degree in Preventive Care, a public health degree applying preventive practices and emphasizing lifestyle change to maintain and foster wellness and health. She completed her doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA hospital and later worked at the Waco VA in Central Texas, where she was the staff psychologist on an inpatient psychiatric ward. She has also enjoyed supervising interns, practicum students and unlicensed/early career psychologists.

Dr. Gordon has additional interests in women's issues, trauma including DID, religion/spirituality, health and wellness, and is passionate about fostering an environment that helps people to recover.

## **Whitney Gore, Ph.D.**

**University of Kentucky, 2016**

**Staff Psychologist, SUD/PTSD Program (SA/PTSD)**

Dr. Gore is a psychologist in the SUD/PTSD program. She has been a member of the professional staff since March 2017, completed her doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Cincinnati VA fellowship: Trauma Treatment and the Mental Health Care of Homeless Veterans. She provides both group and individual psychotherapy to folks diagnosed with PTSD and a wide array of substance use disorders. Special interests include harm reduction-focused approaches and working with individuals who have experienced military sexual trauma. She utilizes several evidence-based treatments, including Motivational Interviewing/Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy skills and mindfulness-based approaches. She values and utilizes a broad range of treatment approaches and believes in the importance of principle-driven treatment. She enjoys supervising interns completing a major rotation on SA/PTSD. As a supervisor, she places emphasis on the therapy relationship, integrating the spirit of MI into various treatment approaches, increasing knowledge and utilization of empirically-based treatments and using a patient-centered approach.

# **Danny Hall, Ph.D.**

**University of Akron, 2004**  
**Health Behavior Coordinator**

Dr. Hall completed a 2-year NIH funded addiction treatment research postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in 2006. After that training he accepted a position at the Detroit VAMC in which he designed an intensive outpatient program (IOP) for addiction treatment. He was the coordinator of this program for 6 years. Also, he was the primary supervisor for APA-accredited postdoctoral fellowship in addiction psychology. From 2012 until Fall 2022 he was the coordinator of outpatient addiction treatment for the SUDEP department. Since taking the position as Health Behavior Coordinator in Primary Care he is trainer in the Whole Health department and has completed Motivational Interviewing Facilitator training, TEACH for Success Facilitator training, and lead on numerous Whole Health trainings. He has been using clinical hypnosis for chronic pain and smoking cessation since 2021.

## **Kaja Telmet Harper, Ph.D.**

**Wayne State University, 2012**  
**Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology**

Dr. Harper is a clinical neuropsychologist who graduated with her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Wayne State University after completing her internship here at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. She completed her APPCN postdoctoral fellowship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan in Detroit. She is involved in the training of doctoral interns on the Neuropsychology Major Rotation. She completes outpatient neuropsychological evaluations at the Behavioral Health and Wellness Center in Norwood. As needed, she also completes inpatient evaluations at the Cincinnati VAMC; these assessments often involve questions of decision-making capacity. She works closely and meets weekly with the TBI Polytrauma team comprised of a physician, nurse, social worker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, audiologist as well as speech and language pathologists. Areas of clinical interest include traumatic brain injury, performance validity, and the provision of feedback in neuropsychological assessment.

## **Wes S. Houston, Ph.D.**

**University of Cincinnati, 2001**

**Director, Neuropsychology Clinic**

**Associate Chief of Staff, Mental Health**

Dr. Houston is a clinical neuropsychologist who received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from University of Cincinnati, and completed internship at the VA San Diego Healthcare System/University of California, San Diego, and postdoctoral fellowship at the San Diego VA. He works closely with the rest of the Neuropsychology team consisting of Drs. Carr, Harper, Kelkar, and Rigrish. He is involved in the training of doctoral interns on the Neuropsychology minor rotation. Areas of clinical interest include age-related cognitive decline, neuropsychological functioning in early dementia, and neuropsychological functioning in Veterans with mild TBI.

## **Victor Jones, Ph.D.**

**Howard University, 2018**

**Staff Psychologist, Primary Care/Mental Health Integration Program**

Victor Lamarr Jones, Jr. received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Howard University. He completed his clinical internship in health psychology at the VA Maryland Health Care System / University of Maryland School of Medicine Consortium, and his postdoctoral fellowship in HIV and Liver Disease at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. Dr. Jones has worked in a variety of healthcare settings, including palliative and hospice care, sub-acute rehab, primary care, and neurology (chronic pain). His research has explored the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual factors that impact overall health and wellness in at-risk populations. He currently works as a staff psychologist in the Primary Care/Mental Health Integration Program providing individual, group, and couples psychotherapy; he also provides care to Veteran through the Liver Clinic. Dr. Jones utilizes a variety of evidence-based techniques and interventions including Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Emotionally Focused Therapy. He is a member of the Diversity Committee and welcomes opportunities to share, learn, and grow with budding clinicians as they progress toward their personal and professional goals.

## **Shauna Keane-Timberlake, Psy.D.**

**Xavier University, 2012**

**Staff Psychologist, Pain Management Service**

Dr. Keane-Timberlake is part of the interdisciplinary team (psychologist, pharmacist, chiropractor, physical therapist, nurse, physician) that serves Veterans struggling with complex chronic pain. In addressing the specific needs of Veterans trying to live a full life with their physical and emotional pain, the Pain Management Service team uses an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy approach consistent with a chronic pain rehabilitation model. Dr. Keane-Timberlake has a particular interest in the impact of mental illness and medical illness/injury on identity. She completed her internship at the VA medical center in Miami, Florida. She has additional training in the use of clinical hypnosis for pain management. Dr. Keane-Timberlake joined the Cincinnati VAMC staff in the fall of 2012.

## **Kalika Kelkar, Psy.D.**

**Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology, 2011**  
**Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology Clinic**

Dr. Kelkar completed her internship at the Coatesville VA Medical Center, PA, followed by a neuropsychology postdoctoral residency at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VA Medical Center, Bedford, MA. Clinical responsibilities include neuropsychological assessments for patients with cognitive complaints secondary to traumatic brain injury, dementia, stroke, seizure disorders, movement disorders, and psychiatric disorders. She also evaluates veterans on the inpatient medicine and psychiatry units as needed; these assessments typically assist with determining discharge disposition and/or decision-making capacity. Dr. Kelkar is also part of the internship training program. She supervises trainees during their major rotation and leads didactics on neuroanatomy and certain dementias.

# **Mackenzie Kirkman, Ph.D.**

**Marquette University, 2021**

**Staff Psychologist, SUD Residential Treatment Program**

Dr. Kirkman received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Marquette University in 2021. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA in 2021, after which she joined the Cincinnati VA staff. She primarily works on the interdisciplinary residential substance use treatment team where she provides group and individual therapy to Veterans diagnosed with substance use disorders. She is also part of the outpatient Dialectical Behavior Therapy treatment team where she provides outpatient comprehensive DBT to Veterans struggling with emotion dysregulation. She utilizes DBT, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approaches in treatment. She also emphasizes exploring how systems can impact individuals' wellbeing and is a member of the Diversity Committee.

## **Meredith Klump, Ph.D.**

**Suffolk University, 2009**

**Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Klump is currently one of the lead clinicians in the women's PTSD Residential treatment program. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. She completed a clinical internship at the Northampton, MA VAMC and postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Health at the Bedford, MA VAMC. She spent two years at the Providence, RI VAMC as a staff psychologist in integrated Primary Care and Behavioral Health. She has clinical training and experience providing evidence based cognitive behavioral therapies for conditions such as PTSD and concomitant anxiety and mood disorders, chronic pain, and other psychological and acute medical conditions. In her current position, Dr. Klump provides evidenced based treatment interventions (i.e., Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy) in person and via telemental health for Veterans diagnosed with PTSD. She also provides individual and group psychotherapy in the women's residential treatment program and conducts diagnostic assessments for the outpatient and residential programs. Dr. Klump provides clinical supervision for interns and postdoctoral fellows in the areas of individual and group therapy, and diagnostic assessment.

## **Jennifer Lewis, Ph.D.**

**Western Michigan University, 2003**

**Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center Outpatient Program**

**VISN 10 Regional CPT Trainer**

Dr. Lewis received her PhD from WMU in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She completed both her Psychology Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship within the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Program (now Trauma Recovery Center) at the Cincinnati VAMC. Dr. Lewis conducts diagnostic assessments and facilitates group and individual therapy at the Trauma Recovery Center from a cognitive behavioral perspective. The TRC provides services to Veterans of all eras of war and conflict, all branches of the military and with PTSD from childhood, military, and/or civilian experiences. Dr. Lewis utilizes a variety of evidence based approaches including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Present Centered Therapy (PCT). She works closely with the Trauma Recovery Center's multidisciplinary team to provide training to Practicum Students, Medical Residents, Psychology Interns, and Postdoctoral Fellows in the areas of evidence based diagnostic assessment, individual psychotherapy and group psychotherapy. In addition to supervising the CPT Minor rotation, she is a Trainer and Consultant for the CPT Implementation Program which is designed to provide training and consultation in CPT to clinicians throughout the VA system. Dr. Lewis' research interests include treatment outcomes and the interface between research and clinical approaches. She was a Therapist Consultant for the VA Cooperative Studies Project 591, a multi-site trial comparing the relative effectiveness of Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. She will be taking part in an upcoming study comparing CPT to EMDR. Dr. Lewis also maintains a private practice in Blue Ash, Ohio.

## **Colleen Martin, Ph.D.**

**The University of Houston, 2017**  
**Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Martin received her doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Houston in 2017. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC in Houston, TX in 2016 and received post-doctoral training in the TRC/DOM fellowship at the Cincinnati VAMC in 2017. Following post-doctoral training, Dr. Martin held a position in Research Service at the Cincinnati VAMC working as a Clinical Assessor on a Department of Defense-funded study examining the psychometric properties of clinician-administered PTSD assessments, as well as biomarkers for PTSD. Dr. Martin has clinical interests in treating PTSD and related symptomatology, as well as research interests in the associations of PTSD and suicidal thoughts and/or behaviors in trauma-exposed populations. She is currently a staff member in the Women's Residential PTSD Program and the outpatient clinic of the Trauma Recovery Center. She provides evidence-based treatments for PTSD including CPT, PE, and CBCT for PTSD. Dr. Martin is also involved in the TRC Research Team and has active studies that include examining suicidal ideation across evidence-based treatments for PTSD, comparisons of symptom outcomes of evidence-based treatments for PTSD in the outpatient program, and the role of the interpersonal psychological theory of suicide in PTSD treatment. Additionally, she is serving as a Co-Lead Site Investigator for a multi-site study examining treatment success and retention for Veterans with PTSD and comorbid substance use disorders, as well as a Sub-Investigator on a study examining the impact of COVID-19 on frontline health care workers.

# Yngve Monsson, Ph.D.

**University of Kansas, 2010**

**Staff Psychologist, Clermont County CBOC**

Dr. Monsson is a staff psychologist at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located in the Eastgate area of Clermont County. The CBOCs are VA clinics offering outpatient primary care, mental health, and other specialized services to Veterans in locations closer to where they live. Dr. Monsson provides individual, group, and couples psychotherapy, and psychological assessment to Veterans with a wide range of different diagnoses. He is also involved in the Tobacco Cessation program at the Clermont location, and conducts individual and group tobacco cessation therapy. Dr. Monsson received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, and he completed his doctoral internship at the Leavenworth VA in Kansas. He has been trained in several different approaches to psychotherapy, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, applied behavior analysis, Therapeutic Lifestyle Change, family systems theory, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and he draws on all of these when working with clients. His areas of interests include chronic sorrow and ambiguous loss, evidence based treatments, coping in parents of children with autism, and Hope theory.

## **Nancy W. Nagel, Psy.D., ABPP**

**Wright State University, 2006**  
**Clinical Health Psychologist**

Dr. Nagel is a board certified clinical health psychologist who works in multiple integrated settings within the facility. She received her doctoral degree from Wright State University and she completed her pre-doctoral internship as well as post-doctoral training in Health Psychology at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. During her tenure, she developed a multidisciplinary chronic pain rehabilitation program, has provided consultative services to the hospice and palliative care team and worked in Primary Care- Mental Health Integration where she is the local site investigator for a multisite study exploring brief treatments for PTSD in the primary care setting. Dr. Nagel is currently working on expansion of integrated behavioral health programming to the specialty medical clinics including cardiology, pulmonary, and hematology/oncology. Additional responsibilities include conducting pre-surgical evaluations for solid organ and bone marrow transplants as well as bariatric procedures. She enjoys providing supervision at both the predoctoral and post-doctoral level to trainees interested in the specialties of health psychology and interdisciplinary care.

# **Adam Peterson, Psy.D.**

**Xavier University, 2016**

**Staff Psychologist, TRAC (intensive outpatient) Program**

Dr. Peterson works in the TRAC program facilitating group and individual therapy using a variety of approaches geared toward treating people with severe and chronic mental illness. While his formal training was primarily CBT focused, he emphasizes utilizing the treatment style that will best help the individual. He has training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and motivational interviewing, and has been increasingly applying interpersonal and dynamic approaches. Dr. Peterson completed his internship at the Cincinnati VA with rotations on the inpatient substance abuse and chronic pain clinics, with additional training in the Interprofessional Team-Based Care program. Dr. Peterson currently serves on the Diversity Committee and is a Whole Health Champion, being a strong advocate of both the biopsychosocial and person-centered models of treatment.

## **Diana Rigrish, Psy.D.**

**Wright State University, 1988**

**Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology**

Dr. Rigrish came to the Cincinnati VA Medical Center with a nursing background. The focus of her predoctoral internship was in clinical neuropsychology and health psychology. She received postdoctoral training in neuropsychology at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center and the Children's Hospital Medical Center. Upon completing her postdoctoral training, she worked part time at the Cincinnati VA and part time at the University Hospital Epilepsy Monitoring Unit conducting neuropsychological assessment. She has been full time at the VA since 1993. Currently, her primary clinical responsibility is to provide neuropsychological assessment to Veterans referred to the neuropsychology laboratory. She works closely with Drs. Carr, Harper, Houston, and Kelkar in providing training to interns.

## **Mindy R. Sefferino, Psy.D.**

**Wright State University School of Professional Psychology, 2006  
Program Manager, Primary Care/Mental Health Integration Program**

Dr. Sefferino is the Program Manager and a member of the Primary Care/Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) Team, which is located in the Primary Care Clinic and Women's Health Center. The PCMHI team collaborates with Primary Care staff to address the mental health and behavioral health needs of their patients. The PCMHI program is designed to provide brief, solution focused treatment. Dr. Sefferino earned her MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of Notre Dame and her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wright State University. During her fellowship at Wright State University, she was also an adjunct professor in the School of Professional Psychology and in the undergraduate psychology program. Prior to working at the VA, she worked in a variety of settings, including a juvenile rehabilitation center, university counseling centers, and a group private practice. Currently, her areas of interest include sleep behavior disorders and women's health. Dr. Sefferino utilizes an integrative approach to therapy, incorporating primarily cognitive-behavioral, interpersonal, and motivational interviewing concepts.

## Chelsea Sleep, Ph.D.

**University of Georgia, 2021**

**Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Substance Use Treatment Program**

Dr. Sleep graduated from the University of Georgia in 2021, and she completed her pre-doctoral internship training at the Cincinnati VAMC. Following internship, she became a member of the professional staff as an outpatient provider in the SUDEP clinic, and she serves as a member of the Assessment subcommittee. She is also an assistant professor of clinical-affiliate at the University of Cincinnati's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. Dr. Sleep's research interests include structural models of personality and quantitative models of psychopathology, with a particular emphasis on the conceptualization and assessment of Antagonism-based disorders. Her work has also focused on the perception of pathological traits, associated impairment, individual's desire for change, and understanding barriers to change. Dr. Sleep is also interested in examining transdiagnostic components of psychopathology and how these components can be intervened upon to provide meaningful clinical change. Dr. Sleep has over 30 peer reviewed manuscripts, and she is a consulting editor of the journal *Assessment*.

## **Katie Smidt, Ph.D.**

**Suffolk University, 2016**

**Senior Organization Development Psychologist with the VHA National Center for Organization Development (NCOD)**

Dr. Katie Smidt is a Senior Organization Development Psychologist with the VHA National Center for Organization Development (NCOD) providing organizational consultation services to VA offices nationwide. She works on the Support and Intervention Team and has a strong role in communication efforts across Organizational Health. Katie also holds the role of Project Champion for NCOD's Leadership Canvas website, a platform for VA leaders to access self-guided resources to promote leadership behaviors and employee engagement. She serves as a Leadership Coach to leaders across VA to assist meeting their personal and professional goals.

Katie earned her Ph.D. from Suffolk University in 2016. She completed her predoctoral internship at VA Boston's PTSD Clinic, followed by a two-year clinical research fellowship at the National Center for PTSD at VA Boston. Katie worked for three years as an OD Psychologist for VISN 1 (VA New England) prior to joining the NCOD Team in 2021. Outside of her work at NCOD, she conducts clinical assessments for PTSD and trains raters to effectively administer these measures.

## **Laura Stayton-Coe, Ph.D.**

**Western Michigan University, 2017  
Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Stayton Coe received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Western Michigan University in 2017. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Cincinnati VAMC in 2016-2017 training year. She also received additional postdoctoral training at the Cincinnati VAMC. Throughout her graduate training, Dr. Stayton Coe focused on the study of PTSD and effectiveness of evidence-based treatments for traumatic stress as well as behavioral approaches to treatment. She currently provides outpatient services in the Trauma Recovery Center. She is trained in various EBP's including CPT, PE, PCT, EMDR, CBT-I and CBT for trauma-related nightmares. Dr. Stayton Coe is a VISN 10 CPT Regional Trainer and consultant and oversees the CPT minor rotation. In addition, Dr. Stayton Coe is an active member of the TRC research team and has recent publications evaluating the impact of CPT on suicidal ideation as well as various factors that impact treatment effectiveness. Dr. Stayton Coe also provides supervision for the PTSD research minor.

## **Jonathan L. Steinberg, Ph.D.**

**Miami University, 1991**  
**Coordinator, SUD/PTSD Program**

Dr. Steinberg was hired by the Cincinnati VA in 1992 as part of the team developing the hospital's first dedicated PTSD Program. He worked in this program for 10 years before moving to the SUD/PTSD Program. He has employed a range of individual and group therapies for PTSD and currently employs Prolonged Exposure Therapy as well as various coping based approaches. He emphasizes development of the therapeutic relationship, awareness of client needs and goals, and the role of conceptualization in psychotherapy. He views Motivational Interviewing as central to all of his clinical work. Dr. Steinberg enjoys teaching and provides training workshops on Motivational Interviewing to psychology interns, other health care trainees and some staff. He is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) and a trainer/consultant in the national rollout of Motivational Interviewing. His clinical interests include the impact of PTSD on relationships, anger management, and the use of normative feedback in substance use disorder interventions (Motivational Enhancement Therapy).

# Jennifer L. Sudbrack, Ph.D.

**Miami University, 2002**

**Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Mental Health**

**Co-coordinator for VISN 10/Cincinnati VAMC Eating Disorders Treatment Team**

Dr. Sudbrack provides psychological services at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located in Florence, KY and serves as Lead Psychologist for the six CBOCs of the Cincinnati VAMC. The CBOCs are VA outpatient clinics offering mental health, primary care, and select other specialized medical services to Veterans at locations more convenient to where they live. Dr. Sudbrack is also the psychologist and co-coordinator for the Cincinnati VAMC Eating Disorders Treatment Team, which provides direct patient care to Cincinnati area veterans and consultation to providers across VISN 10 (Ohio, Indiana, & Michigan).

Dr. Sudbrack's primary areas of professional interest are eating disorders, body weight and shape concerns, PTSD, and self-management of chronic illness. She has been trained in a variety of approaches to psychotherapy and uses an integrative model of care, regularly making use of techniques from diverse models, including client-centered, cognitive, DBT, psychodynamic, feminist, group process, and family systems theories. Her approach to supervision is based on a developmental model guided by the supervisee's clinical skill and professional development. She invites interns to explore a variety of theoretical perspectives and interventions and enjoys working with them to discover and refine their own approach to the work.

# Angela R. Volz, Ph.D.

**Miami University, 2012**

**Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic**

Dr. Volz found her passion for working with the Veteran population while completing a pre-doctoral practicum in the Trauma Recovery Center at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Dr. Volz completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Memphis VA Medical Center and her postdoctoral fellowship in Trauma Recovery and Women's Health at the Durham VA Medical Center. In addition to her duties in the Mental Health Clinic, Dr. Volz also works for the National Center for PTSD as a Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy national trainer and consultant. She is a VA-recognized provider in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD, PE for PTSD, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D), Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), and Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT). In her current position, Dr. Volz uses a number of treatment approaches, including CPT, PE, ACT, MET, IBCT, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation, and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD. Dr. Volz is also a member of the interdivisional DBT team, where she regularly provides full model DBT. Prior to her current position, Dr. Volz was a staff psychologist in the residential PTSD/ SUD program at VA Maryland Health Care System and was Program Evaluator for the national CPT dissemination initiative. She currently supervises interns on the Mental Health Clinic major rotation.

# **Tobias C. Weiss, PsyD, ABPP**

**Xavier University, 2003**

**Staff Psychologist, Trauma Recovery Center**

Dr. Weiss is presently a co-lead for the men's residential PTSD program. He divides his time between the residential PTSD programs, outpatient PTSD program, and multiple research projects. Dr. Weiss provides diagnostic evaluations, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, and couples psychotherapy. Dr. Weiss completed his Psy.D. at Xavier University and completed the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) specialty certification in Cognitive-Behavioral Psychology in 2011. Prior to his work with the Cincinnati VAMC, he worked in outpatient community mental health managing a caseload of individual therapy clients and performing guardianship evaluations for Campbell County, KY. Dr. Weiss has extensive experience in psychological assessments having worked in various hospital, outpatient, and forensic settings. His current areas of interest include: supervision, group process work, and augmenting evidenced-based treatments in residential settings. Dr. Weiss is currently coordinating and focusing his own research on a PTSD residential therapy group that combines the principles of Aikido (a defensive martial art) with conflict resolution/anger management skills.

## **Brian Zinnbauer, Ph.D., ABPP**

**Bowling Green State University, 1998**

**Chief, Psychology Program**

**Director, Psychology Training Program**

As Chief of the Psychology Program, Dr. Zinnbauer advises Medical Center leadership on issues pertaining to professional aspects of our discipline such as credentialing and privileging, continuing education, resource management, hiring of psychologists, and training of students. In his position as the Director of the Psychology Training Program, Dr. Zinnbauer is responsible for the development and management of the doctoral internship, postdoctoral fellowship, and clinical practicum training programs.

Dr. Zinnbauer also provides psychological services to Veterans in the Mental Health Care Line. Dr. Zinnbauer's clinical work draws upon cognitive therapy, interpersonal process, addictions treatment, and positive psychology. He also has a professional interest in writing, research, and clinical applications of the psychology of religion and spirituality. Dr. Zinnbauer's approach to Intern supervision includes a developmental approach to promote interns' clinical skills and professional development. For outpatient psychotherapy supervision he emphasizes understanding interpersonal process, case conceptualization, and flexible strategies to meet Veterans where they are in treatment and to adapt treatment approaches to the individual needs of our Veterans.

# Appendix B: Professional Conferences

The chart below lists the Professional Conferences that were offered between September and June during the 2022-2023 training year.

## Professional Conferences

Presenter, Topic

Nick Salsman, DBT Update

Greg Bailey, Positive Psychology

Brandon Bryan, Working with Politically Charged Veterans in Treatment

Kelly Napier, Case presentation of Veteran in Home Based Primary Care

Lief Noll, Working with Older Veterans: Meaning, Loss, and Role Changes in Late Old Age

Meredith Klump, Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy for the Treatment of PTSD

Merdijana Kovacevic, Intensive Treatments for PTSD

Mackenzie Kirkman, Fool Me Twice: Conceptualizing and Targeting Shame

Kaja Harper, Capacity Evaluations

Lyndsay Griffin Colvin, Biofeedback

Danny Hall, Tobacco Use Disorder: Epidemiological, Marketing, and Treatment Implications

Chelsea Sleep, Evidence-based Assessment of Substance use Disorders

Nalda Gordon, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Program

Zane Faulkner, Working with Values in ACT

Mindy Sefferino, Insomnia and CBT-i

Amy Fahey, Body Dysmorphic Disorder

Sydney Black, Building Resilience Support Teams

Kristin George, Development of a Comprehensive Bariatric Program

Daniel Lattimore, Shifting from 'What's the Matter?' to 'What Matters': Integrating Whole Health into Primary Care and Mental Health at the Cincinnati VAMC

Melanie Midkiff, Veteran and Provider Experiences in a Pilot 3-week PTSD Residential Massed Program

Caroline Scheid, Demographic Information and Veterans' Functioning Following the Completion of a Massed Residential PTSD Treatment Program

Intern Class, Intern Case Presentations (x8)

## Workshops

Dr. Victor Jones, Diversity Dialogues in Supervision and Consultation

Dr. Nia Billings, Ableism and Implicit Attitudes towards people with disabilities

Drs. Barrett, Noll, and Steinberg, The Aging Psychologist

Drs. Steinberg, Gore and Frensemeier, Motivational Interviewing and Motivation Enhancement

# Appendix C: Intern Seminars

The chart below lists the Intern Seminars that were offered between September and July during the 2022-2023 training year.

## Intern Seminars Presenter, Topic

Emily Resnick, Suicide Prevention and Responding to Emergencies

Adam Peterson, Using MH Suite

Connie Boehner and Zane Faulkner, MMPI RF/MMPI 3

Diversity Committee, Introducing the Diversity Training Series

Kalika Kelkar, Introduction to TBI in the Veteran Population

Drew Fowler, Medical Marijuana and Mental Health

Current Fellowship Class, Applying to Postdocs

Hideki Scherb, Metaphors in Treatment

Ryan Faulkner, Performance Based Interviewing

Brian Zinnbauer, Malingering

Connie Boehner, Professional Development after Graduate School

Kalika Kelkar, Dementia Overview

Brian Zinnbauer, Working with Religious and Spiritual issues in treatment

Ellen Rau, Cultural Humility

Fellowship Class, Fellow and Intern Journal Club

Mackenzie Kirkman, Sex positivity

Zane Faulkner, ACT and Suicidality I & II

Yngve Monsson, Aviation Psychology

Lucia Wang MD, Mental Status Exams

Colleen Martin and Laura Stayton-Coe, Managing Harassment in the Workplace

Brian Zinnbauer , Supervision I & II

Lyndsay Griffin Colvin, Identifying and Responding to Abuse within the Disability Community

Janell Giannitelli, OMG – did that just happen? Responding to Challenging Events in Treatment

Jack Barrett, Neuropsychology Tests and Screens for the Non-Neuropsychologist

Laura Stayton Coe, Life after Internship